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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council at its 3115th meeting, on 18 September 1992, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Further report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) (S/24556)":

"The Security Council has noted with appreciation the further report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) (S/24556), which it has studied carefully.

"It reaffirms the importance it attaches to the full implementation of the Acordos de Paz para Angola", culminating in free and fair multi-party elections on 29 and 30 September 1992. It congratulates the Angolans on their success in maintaining the cease-fire and in registering the great majority of the population to vote in the elections. It is convinced of the irreversibility of this process.

"At the same time, the Council calls on the Angolan parties to take urgent and determined steps to complete certain essential measures. These include the demobilization of the remaining Government and UNITA troops, the collection and centralized storage of weapons, and the rapid completion of the formation of the new National Angolan Armed Forces. It is also essential that the police should operate as a neutral, national force.

"The Council is also concerned at the recent deterioration of the political and security situation in Angola. It endorses the Secretary-General's appeal to President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi to exercise leadership at this critical juncture and to ensure that their followers act with restraint and tolerance. The Council is encouraged by the reports of positive decisions reached by the two leaders at their meeting on 7 September 1992 and urges them to implement these without delay. Of particular importance is their reported agreement in principle to the formation of a government of national reconciliation after the elections.

"The Council calls upon the Angolan electoral authorities to ensure that all registered persons are given the opportunity to exercise their vote and to extend polling hours on the second day, if this should prove necessary. The Council also underlines the importance of adequate logistical planning and support and urges the donor community to move speedily to provide the remaining requirements identified in the Secretary-General's report.

"The Council is concerned that doubts have recently been expressed in Angola about UNAVEM's effectiveness and impartiality and welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General as expressed in paragraph 9 of his report to investigate thoroughly all matters raised in this regard. It expresses strong support for the Secretary-General and his Special Representative and commends UNAVEM II personnel who are tackling their challenging tasks with courage, impartiality and dedication. It urges the Angolan parties to continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations and to take all necessary steps to ensure the security of United Nations personnel and property.

"The Council takes note of a reported agreement between the Government and UNITA that the United Nations should be asked to extend UNAVEM's presence in Angola during the period of transition after the elections. It will be prepared to consider such a request if it is based on wide support in Angola and if it proposes for UNAVEM a mandate which is clearly defined in scope and time.

"The Security Council will continue to keep the situation in Angola under close review and looks forward to a further report by the Secretary-General after the elections."